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LB 890

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, and, Senator Abboud, don't panic, just to bring us up to where we are now based on my looking at this bill. I have no problems with the bill, except with respect to one claim that we approved the last time, and that is the claim of Mr. Chavez, who was injured in an accident. The state settled for what I consider the unconscionably low amount of \$300,000. The man is a quadriplegic, and I believe that the Legislature has the authority and, in this case, the moral, even legal, although we can't say legal because a settlement was reached, but ethical responsibility to deal fairly with citizens and not to overreach simply because a person is literally flat on his back. So Senator Will and I are looking at some cases and trying to devise some language which we will use to attempt an amendment to LB 890 to increase the amount of that which will be paid over to Mr. Chavez. Secondly, Senator Schimek, I hate to keep addressing you, but this is something that we have been talking about and it relates to Joe Soukup's claim. The Treasurer was listening to our discussion and he sent me a letter. He and Joe were appreciative of what the Legislature did, but here is something that addresses an issue that was troubling to me, and I am reading from Mr...I don't want to call him Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Heineman's letter to me dated May 15th. "I also wanted to make you aware that the Nebraska Investment Council will be creating a 20-year annuity that will provide Joe a monthly inflation protected income of approximately \$1,100. This will address your concern and it is a more responsible way to assist Joe." Sometimes when we undertake to do things, we can achieve something that is really worthwhile, and I am pleased that Senator Schimek, in conjunction with the Treasurer, brought this particular claim to us. I am appreciative of the fact that the Legislature so willingly agreed to it, and while I am in such an expansive mood, which was created by the way Mr. Soukup has been handled, I am very pleased that this 20-year annuity is going to be developed. So having said that, Senator Abboud, I think you have a pretty good bill now. It needs a little tinkering around the edges which I will attempt on Select File, but other than that, I am going to support this bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Dierks.